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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Sir, I have already said that there is no information about it."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI:—" Sir, are the Government aware that supplies to gruel centres are not maintained properly and that the cost of the labour and firewood is not met by the Government and consequently, it has become impossible for the managers of these gruel centres to run them properly and, taking advantage of this situation, the local officers are closing down the gruel centres? Also, will the Government provide gruel to adult persons also or in the alternative provide them with employment? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Sir, all that the hon. Member has said will be looked into."

Hunger-strike of Communist prisoners in Cannanore Jail.

* 254 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Communist convicted prisoners in Cannanore Jail have decided to go on hunger-strike on July 20th and if so, what are the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" A request has been received from three of the prisoners in the Cannanore Jail of whom one is an under-trial and has been subsequently released on bail, that they may be released and that pending their release, they may be given some additional privileges. They have threatened to go on hunger-strike if their requests are not favourably considered. The matter is receiving attention.

" I may also add that they have given up the hunger-strike on the 21st July 1952 afternoon and subsequently one of them has been ordered to be released after remitting the sentence. The other is awarded a life sentence and Government have considered it fit not to interfere with the sentence."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, what are the additional facilities which the prisoners are asking for? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, they have asked for very many facilities which are not warranted by the rules."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, I asked the Hon. Minister to specifically mention the facilities asked for. Whether they are warranted by the rules or not is a different matter. I want an exact reply, Sir."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, the hon. Member can put a separate question and then I will catalogue all the demands."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister said a few days back in his reply that the question of release was

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engaging the attention of the Government and that they were very closely and sympathetically considering it. So, the answer that the Hon. the Minister for Jails to-day gave regarding this prisoner came as a surprise. Is it to be taken, Sir, that the Hon. the Chief Minister's answer that the question of release is under consideration is not correct?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, my answer has borne out the fact stated by the Hon. the Chief Minister. It was in pursuance of such consideration that one person was ordered to be released."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the case of Chirakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar, who is a lifer, in view of the fact that the so-called offence committed by him took place in 1946, that is, before August 1947, and also in view of the fact that he was one of the Volunteer Officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, the Government have already considered his case."

Payment of allowance to election staff.

* 255 *Q.*—SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the staff employed by the Government on the polling day of the last General Elections have not yet been paid the allowance due to them; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(*a*) In some districts, where some of the polling personnel have not yet been paid their travelling allowance, the Collectors have been instructed to settle these claims without any avoidable delay.

"(*b*) The delay in these cases is due to such causes as late submission of bills by the polling personnel and defective preparation of the bills."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI:—"Sir, are the Government aware that a lorry carrying polling staff consisting of some non-gazetted officers in Cuddapah district turned upside down while crossing the ghats in the Seshachalam forest, causing serious injury to the polling personnel? Full details of this have been published in the dailies. Are the Government providing any relief to the victims of this accident?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"This question deals with the payment of travelling allowance to the election staff and the point raised by the hon. Member is in no way connected with it."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI:—"Sir, will the polling staff be paid their travelling allowances before the next General Elections?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Sir, I do not know when the hon. Member expects the next General Elections."